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# UNION WHITE BOYS IN BLUE

## CONSTITUTION

AND

## PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

# SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' CONVENTION,

HELD AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

ON WEDNESDAY, EIGHTH DAY OF APRIL, 1868.

GEN. JOHN LOVE, COMMANDING GENERAL,
COL. B C SHAW, QUARTER-MASTER-GENERAL,
CAPT. WINSTON P. NOBLE, ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
} *Executive Committee, Indianapolis.*

INDIANAPOLIS:
SENTINEL PRINTING AND BINDING ESTABLISHMENT.
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# UNION WHITE BOYS IN BLUE.

## PROCEEDINGS

Of the Conservative Soldiers and Sailors of Indiana, at a meeting held in the city of Indianapolis, on the 8th day of April, 1868, on the call of General Love.

General Love, on calling the meeting to order, stated the object of the call as follows:

GENTLEMEN: General Meredith having removed from the State, I was invited to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee appointed by the Cleveland Convention of 1866, and in Washington city, on the 22d of February last, met with the Central Executive and State and Territorial Executive Committee—nearly every State and Territory being represented. Vacancies were filled, and I was elected Chairman of the Auxiliary Committee for our State. Entire unanimity prevailed in all the proceedings, and on no point more enthusiastically than that a great duty devolved upon the conservative soldiers and sailors of the country, in using their influence in the coming presidential struggle—

1. In securing a candidate to carry our banner in the contest; and

2. In our combined effort to elect that candidate, and thus rescue the country from the grasp of the ruthless and destructive party now in power.

The details of organization have been left by the National Executive Committee, to the States respectively. The following letter has been received from the Central Committee, embodying substantially the action had by the meeting in Washington on the 22d of February:

WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 1st, 1868,
*Marble Building*, 460 *Seventh St.*

SIR—At the meeting of the National Central Executive Committee, and State and Territorial Auxiliary Executive Committees appointed at the National Convention

Union Soldiers and Sailors at Cleveland, 1866, held in Washington, February 22, last, it was

*Resolved*, That a delegate Convention of all soldiers and sailors who served faithfully in the Union army during the late rebellion, who are in favor of the Constitution of the United States, the restoration of the States (now excluded) to representation, and opposed to the revolutionary legislation of Congress, be held at Cooper Institute, city of New York, July 4, 1868.

*Second*—That the State and Territorial Auxiliary Executive Committees for the several States and Territories, make arrangements, each in their respective localities, to secure representation, as shall to each be deemed most efficient.

*Third*—That the delegates of each State, regardless of the number present, shall be entitled to cast in convention double the number of votes, and no more, to which such State is entitled in the electoral college. Each Territory represented and District of Columbia shall be entitled to two votes.

*Fourth*—That the immediate formation of clubs and other organizations be urged upon these soldiers and sailors sympathizing with our principles, in every town, county and State of the Union.

Your attention is directed to the foregoing proceedings of the committee, and your earnest co-operation in carrying out the suggestions herein made, solicited. The reports from the various States are very encouraging. It is believed that in some of the States a majority of the soldiers are with us; in others, a large and powerful minority; in the remainder, a very respectable proportion. Organization only is needed to make our strength felt. Will you not attend to making it for your locality? The Central Committee will be glad to hear from you frequently.

Please address communications to General Hugh Cameron, No. 460 Seventh Street.

Very respectfully,

GEORGE P. ESTE,
C. D. PENNEBAKER,
THOMAS EWING,
P. H. ALLABACH,
J. W. DENVER,
HUGH CAMERON,
*National Central Executive Committee.*

To perfect an organization in our State, and to be in harmony with the movement throughout the country, I have notified all who sympathize with us, to meet here to-day. To your deliberations, gentlemen, is committed an important task—that of bringing into compact and efficient organization, the soldiers and sailors of our State, who have endured the dangers and privations of the field, that Union and a Republican Government might live, and be handed down to remotest posterity, under the constitution which we inherited, and which has in the past made us, in less than a century, one of the most powerful countries of the earth. It may be urged by some, the danger of keeping up and fostering military distinctions, by organization such as we propose, but who are so interested in good government as those who have risked their all in its defense? and why may not such, move shoulder to shoulder under a simple organization such as we propose, and with which we are all familiar, in securing in civil life and by peaceful means, the blessings of good government? And why should not those who had a common interest in the field, and are now in harmony on the great problem of government, and the results we feel we should reap from the terrible struggle, meet in such an organization and keep alive those ties and friendships which were formed in the field, and now bind us in a common desire for the Union of our fathers? Conscious, gentlemen, in the purity of our intentions, let us go forward, and in an open organization, show to our fellow citizens that we desire to subserve their interests, and protect and defend their liberties in common with our own. In the light of past history, and present threatening danger—let us by all honorable means, and by our example, do all in our power to point out the evils to Republican institutions in secret, oath-bound political bodies.

Can we not all see the evils to our political system, in the Know Nothing organization—the (mis-called) Union League, the Grand Army of the Republic, and all similar bodies? Let us not delude our fellow soldiers into a political organization under the guise of exclusive charity. Let the widow and orphan of the war be our care—but let our sympathies and assistance be in the light of day. What, gentlemen, did the nation pledge to the world as the object of the war? Was it not as expressed in the

Crittenden resolution, unrepealed to this day and which reads as follows:

"That, in the national emergency, congress, banishing all feelings of passion and resentment, will recollect only their duty to their country. That the war is not waged for conquest or subjugation, or interfering with the rights or established constitutions of these States, but to maintain and defend the supremacy of the constitution, with the rights and equality under it unimpaired. That as soon as those objects are accomplished, the war ought to cease."

Has this pledge been redeemed? Let the action of congress answer. Three years since a hostile hand has been raised against the government, an overwhelming and despotic control in both branches of congress, and still a divided and broken Union, with no hope of peace and prosperity, and no semblance of a State government, unless under negro supremacy and negro control.

In unsettling every business interest of the country.

In usurping all the powers of the government.

In legislating for partisan schemes and purposes, in utter disregard of all the landmarks of our government, and in keeping alive the animosities engendered by the war.

Is it not, then, worthy of our every energy—in season and out of season—to so labor as to bring back our government to the days of economical, high toned, and statesmanlike administration?

On motion, Frank Cunningham was appointed Secretary.

On motion of Colonel B. C. Shaw, a committee of three was appointed to present a constitution and plan of organization, consisting of Colonel B. C. Shaw, Major H. N. Conklin, and Captain Fox, of Fayette.

The Secretary then read letters from Generals Graham N. Fitch and James H. Slack, and Colonels I. B. McDonald, J. V. Bemusdaffer and W. W. Frybarger, Major J. D. Simpson, Captain William L. McKnight, Sergeant E. W. Menaugh, and others, expressing regret at their inability to attend the meeting, and heartily endorsing the call.

Colonel J. W. Blake offered the following:

*Resolved*, That General Hancock, by his manly recognition of the principle, that under our institutions, the military power, in time of peace, is ever subordinate and not superior to the civil laws of the land, has shown himself the patriot citizen, as his services in the field proved him the gallant and tried soldier, devoted to the Union and Constitution of our fathers.

The committee on the constitution here reported the following as the constitution and plan of organization for the government of the same, which was unanimously adopted:

## CONSTITUTION.

This association shall be known as the "UNION WHITE BOYS IN BLUE," and shall be composed of those who served in the army or navy of the United States, were honorably discharged, and now support the time-honored principles of constitutional government, inculcated by Washington, Madison, Jefferson, Jackson, Webster and Clay, and in defence of which, thousands of our comrades have laid down their lives.

That notwithstanding attempted secession and consequent civil war, the Union of these States remains sacredly intact and unbroken, and that neither by the volition of the people of a State directly, can disunion occur; nor as a punishment for rebellion, can a severance of this Union be *indirectly* forced upon the country, by a revolutionary congress.

That all efforts by pretended legislation and the employment of military force to affect the sovereignty of the so-called "seceded States," and impair their constitutional rights, obligations and duties, are false and treacherous to the spirit and intent of our republican institutions, and in fact, if accomplished, render the failure of the principle of rebellion, practically a success and triumph.

That as soldiers in the field, true to the honor and flag of our country in preserving our Union against the assaults of rebels in arms, we shall be equally true and

faithful at the ballot box, to save our country and flag from destruction at the hands of Radicalism, and thus preserve and perpetuate in civil life, that restoration of the Union which we believed we had achieved in military conflict.

That the national honor, pledged to the payment of the public debt as it is, renders the national faith equally pledged to the people—the tax-payers of the country—against augmenting that vast public burden beyond the express terms thereof; and that in the absence of stipulation to the ~~country,~~ *that* lawful money which liquidates the claims of disabled soldiers, widows and orphans of the war, is equally the just equivalent of the claims of the bondholder.

That without the false and deceptious pretences of benevolence, hidden under a charitable mask, by a secretly proscriptive political organization, earnestly recognizing in deeds, not words only, the claims of a generous and humane benevolence, we pledge ourselves to remember the widow and the orphan of the war, and to minister to their necessities.

That believing all secret and oath-bound political associations baneful and pernicious to the public peace, dangerous and destructive of public liberty, and in no sense compatible with the acknowledged duties and obligations of American citizens—we proclaim this a public organization, open to the people, whose interests we desire to subserve, and whose liberties we desire to protect and defend, in common with our own.

That the three co-ordinate departments of the Federal Government—the Legislative, Executive and Judicial—must be maintained in their several spheres, in all their rights, duties and prerogatives under the constitution, and that any and all attempts of either to encroach upon the province of the others, are in their nature dangerous and destructive of that balance of power essential to the peace and permanence of our government.

That the radical majority in congress, by their indecent haste, and denial of time for deliberation and debate in the passage of important measures of vital interest, acknowledge the consciousness of wrong, and of their purpose to accomplish their partisan objects in disregard of the rights and interests of the people.

1. That we are opposed to the suspension or destruction of the political sovereignty of ten States of our Union by the arbitrary and unconstitutional action of a radical congress.

2. That we are opposed to the establishment of military despotism in these ten States, by which the lives and property of their people are at the option and under the control of a military commander.

3. That we are opposed to that despotism for other reasons, and because productive of discontent, fear, suspicion and insecurity—the energies, the enterprise and productive industry of the country are paralyzed and the people impoverished.

4. That we are opposed to the gratification of inhumane, sectional and partisan malignancy against the people of the southern States, at the cost and expense of the productive industry and daily toil of our laboring classes, who are thus compelled to pay their own and the taxes of the exhausted south.

5. That we are opposed to negro supremacy and the domination of an inferior, degraded race in these States, by which one-third of our States are to be ruthlessly abandoned to the mismanagement and control of barbarism; and that it is not in the heart of American citizenship to brook the relinquishment of that vast southern domain to negro ownership, whilst revered memories of the battle-fields of the American revolution and the tombs of Washington, Madison, Jefferson, Marion, and the patriots and sages of that noble era, hold a place in our hearts.

6. That we are opposed to the extravagant and criminally corrupt expenditures of the radical administration of the government.

7. That we are opposed to all monopolies and class legislation, by which the rich are made richer at the sacrifice and expense of the agricultural, mechanical and laboring masses.

8. That we are opposed to that frenzied madness of partisan rancor which places love of country, devotion to the public good and the preservation of constitutional liberty, (the noblest impulses of true patriotism,) as secondary and inferior to the dictatoral behests of "party fealty;" and we hold that honesty, capacity and fidelity to the constitution justly embraces the true requisites for political preferment.

9. That the *ad valorem* principle of assessment by which the property of the country, in whatever form, is made subject to its equal and just ratio of taxation, is the only just and equitable mode of supplying the needed revenues of the government, and we are opposed to all invidious discriminations rendering public secureties exempt from taxation, and by which the laboring classes are thus forced to the payment of their own and taxes of the bondholders.

10. That we are opposed to the Freedman's Bureau, maintained at the cost of millions of the people's money, harboring in vicious idleness and profligacy hordes of unthrifty and indolent negroes.

11. That the pretended education of the negroes at the south under the Freedman's Bureau system, at the cost and expense of the people, while our own system is notoriously inadequate to the proper education of white children, presents the glaring and atrocious inconsistency of our paying for twelve months schools for southern negroes, while our school funds are insufficient for the maintainance of public schools in Indiana for a period equal to one-fourth of that enjoyed by negro children of the south.

The organization of the State shall be as follows: One Major-General, one Adjutant-General, and one Quarter-Master-General. The above named officers shall constitute the Executive Committee, with head-quarters at Indianapolis.

One Brigadier-General for each Congressional District, who shall appoint his own staff. For each regiment, the army regimental organization. For each company, the company organization of the army.

The companies of one or more counties shall constitute a regiment, and the clubs of one or more townships or wards, a company. Each company and regiment shall make its own by-laws for its government.

It shall be the duty of the Commanding General to preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and to give all orders touching the welfare of the organization.

It shall be the duty of the Adjutant-General to keep all records of the organization and to attend to the correspondence.

It shall be the duty of the Quarter-Master-General to

take charge of the funds of the organization and to disburse the same on the order of the Executive Committee.

It shall be the duty of Brigade Commanders to receive reports from the regiments of their brigades and to report monthly to the Commanding General. It shall be the duty of Colonels of regiment to receive reports from Company Commanders, to give all orders touching the welfare of their regiments and to report from time to time to their Brigade Commanders. It shall be the duty of each Company Commander to report from time to time to the Colonel of his regiment all matters touching the welfare of his company.

The uniform shall be a blue blouse with a white rosette on the left breast, citizens' pantaloons, and army forage cap. The uniform of officers may assimilate as near as practicable and legal to similar rank in the army.

Each member of the organization shall, on parade occasions, carry a small National Flag attached to a staff six feet long.

The members of a company shall elect their Company Officers, and not more than ten nor less than six companies shall constitute a regiment and elect their Regimental Commanders. Not less than two nor more than six regiments shall constitute a brigade.

General John Love was elected Commanding General of the organization for the State, and Colonel B. C. Shaw was elected Quarter-Master-General.

On motion, General Love was authorized to appoint the Adjutant-General for the organization.

On motion, the Executive Committee were authorized to select the Brigadier-Generals for the several districts.

Captain Fox, of Fayette, offered the following:

*Resolved*, That all soldiers and sailors who sympathize with our movement, be earnestly requested to organize at once under our constitution, and until a Brigadier-General is appointed for their district to report to the Commanding General at Indianapolis.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

FRANK CUNNINGHAM, *Secretary.* JOHN LOVE, *Chairman.*

HEAD QUARTERS, UNION WHITE BOYS IN BLUE,
INDIANAPOLIS, April 11th, 1868.

GENERAL ORDER, No 1.

Captain Winston P. Noble is hereby appointed Adjutant-General of the organization for the State.

JOHN LOVE,
*Commanding Union White Boys in Blue.*

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORGANIZING.

*First*—In a ward of a city—in a village—or in a township—from thirty to fifty soldiers, organize a company, and elect the usual company officers—Captain, two Lieutenants, &c., &c.

*Second*—Require each member to sign the constitution of the organization—and enact by-laws.

*Third*—From six to ten companies (the more conveniently located) unite as a regiment, and elect regimental officers.

*Fourth*—The organization is intended to assimilate throughout, to the usual political organizations—companies to the ward and township clubs; regiments to the county, and brigades to the district organization—the Executive Committee to the usual political State Central Committees.

*Fifth*—In addition to reports required by the constitution, communications will at all times, be gladly received at head-quarters.

JOHN LOVE,
*Commanding Union White Boys in Blue.*

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